

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

TOPIC 1. 26th Infantry Regiment in Vimperk 25X1A

2. Tank Regiment in Pardubice

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1C

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REMARKS 25X1A

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26th Inf Regt in Vimperk.

1. Prior to 31 December 1951, the 26th Slovenskeho narodniko postani (Slovak National Revolution) Inf Regt in Vimperk (N 50/Q 46) was subordinate to a division in Susice (N 50/Q 28). Colonel Kolovratnik (fnu) was last identified as the commanding officer of this division on 23 December 1951. He was repeatedly seen accompanied by a Soviet colonel. The division was subordinate to the Hq II Corps whose location could not be determined. An artillery unit in Horazdovice (N 50/Q 39) was the only other unit known to be subordinate to the division. (1)
2. The headquarters of the 26th Inf Regt, the regimental units, the 2d Bn, the SP gun unit and the NCO school were stationed in the Strazeu zapadnich hranic (Guardian of the Western Border) Barracks which was located about 500 meters east of the railroad station on the south side of the road to Sumasvske Mostice (N 50/Q 46) and consisted of about 30, mostly low buildings of brick and wood. The 3d Bn was quartered in the former Vltava hotel, west of the railroad station, and in the former Stramberger printing office. The 1st Bn was stationed in Kasperske Hory (N 50/Q 27). (2)
3. Officers of the regiment included Major Svetozev Chytil, commanding officer; Major Polak, deputy officer; Senior Lieutenant Pesek (fnu), political officer; Lieutenant Navratil (fnu), DOZ officer; and Major Miloslav Churan, administrative officer.
4. The regiment consisted of Czechs and Slovaks who were equally represented. There also were some Hungarians.
5. The regiment was organized into a headquarters with a headquarters company; a technical company with 1 signal platoon and 1 engineer platoon; 1 AT artillery company; 1 chemical platoon of 15 men; 1 motor transport unit of about 60 men; the 1st through 3d Bns; 1 SP gun unit; and the NCO school. Four companies of about 200 recruits each were in existence from 1 to 30 November 1951. (3)
6. The AT artillery company was equipped with some Soviet 57-mm AT guns. The SP gun unit was equipped with 6 SP guns, each of which had 6 bogie wheels on a side and a gun of about 75 mm with muzzle brake. The entire SP gun was about 5 meters long and 2 meters to 2.5 meters high. According to the

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mechanics, it was a German vehicle with a Czech motor. The chemical platoon was equipped with old German gas masks and antigas paulins which, in case of war, were to be replaced by Czech material. The motor transport unit had about 56 x 3-ton Praga-RW trucks, 12 x 2.5-ton Praga-RW trucks, 7 jeeps and 6 sedans.

7. Basic training in Vimperk lasted from 1 to 30 November 1951, when about 350 men were detached to the NCO school of the regiment. This school was organized into an infantry company, a heavy machine gun company with model 37 heavy machine guns, a mortar company with 82-mm and 120-mm mortars, and an AT artillery company with 2 or 3 x 57-mm AT guns. The course was to be completed in April 1952. Subjects of instruction included training with gas protective equipment, ballistics, drill, etc. Courses including about 40 men each for drivers and signal troopers were held in Vimperk at the same time.

Tank Regiment in Pardubice.

3. Prior to early 1951, a tank regiment with the surname Lobkovicuv was quartered in the barracks installation at the village of Hurka northeast of Pardubice (O 51/M 79). About 40 armored vehicles of various types were repeatedly seen in the streets after 1949. Besides, units with guns of medium caliber, towed by trucks, were seen in the street near this barracks installation. (4)
9. A railroad regiment and an engineer unit were quartered in the Masaryk Barracks in the southern city sector. (5) The military subdistrict headquarters in Pardubice, where Staff Captain Krocka (fnu) was employed as the head of the draft commission, moved to the former Salesian monastery opposite the Masaryk Barracks in November 1950. Staff Captain Fikejs (fnu) was the commanding officer of the STB in Pardubice.

25X1A [ ] Comments.

- (1) The report confirms the 26th Inf Regt and the 2d Mtz Inf Div under the command of Colonel Kelovratnik (fnu) in Susice. According to previous information, Slovenskeho narodniko postani (Slovak National Revolution) is the surname of the 2d Mtz Inf Div, whereas the 26th Inf Regt has the surname General Viesta. The artillery unit in Horazdovice might consist of components of the 10th Arty Regt in Klatovy. This regiment has been carried to date with only two battalions in Klatovy and Prachatice respectively.
- (2) The report confirms information of June 1951 by another source. The SP artillery unit is mentioned for the first time. Such a unit will probably become an organic component of each motorized infantry regiment. [ ] 25X1A
- (3) It is believed that a reconnaissance unit, a mortar unit and an AA machine gun unit are also assigned to the regiment. These units may not have been activated to date.
- (4) A tank unit was repeatedly reported to be stationed in Pardubice. It is believed that the tank regiment mentioned in the present report is a component of the 8th Mecz Div in Kolin. According to a report of February 1951, the barracks installation was occupied by an AAA unit, probably the 183d AAA Bn, to which the guns mentioned in the present report may have belonged. [ ] 25X1A

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